

The Courier-News

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FRIDAY, JUNE 6, 1997

## Toxins contained, says EPA

By BOB GAYDOSH  
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**SOUTH PLAINFIELD** — Toxic chemicals at a contaminated industrial site do not appear to threaten public health in the surrounding neighborhood, officials with the federal Environmental Protection Agency said Thursday night.

Members of the agency briefed the borough's Taxpayers Advisory Group

about efforts to keep people from coming into contact with contaminants at the Hamilton Industrial Park on Hamilton Boulevard.

Preliminary air testing done at the location indicates the contaminants are not airborne, officials said, so the threat to the surrounding area is minimal. Nonetheless, soil testing will be done outside of the site.

Soil testing conducted last year at the industrial park detected unacceptable levels of PCBs, cadmium and lead.

PCBs were once used extensively in the manufacturing of electronic components. Their use was discontinued in 1977 when health risks were recognized.

Cornell-Dubilier, an electronics company, operated a manufacturing plant on the site from 1936 to 1962.

Eric Wilson, the agency's coordinator for the "stabilization" project, said the contaminants are concentrated at the rear of site, where a truck driving school operated until recently.

"Pro-active steps to limit access to the property is certainly in order to limit exposure to the lowest levels possible," Wilson said.

The owner of the property, DSC Enterprises of Newark, has been ordered to pave the roadway and parking areas, fence in trouble spots, and post warning signs. Physical barriers must also be constructed to keep the contaminants out of the Bound Brook.

The work, which will begin later this month, should be finished in

July, Wilson said.

Contaminants have also been detected inside some of the buildings. About 15 companies occupy the property's land.

Workers could potentially face health risks from "chronic and long-term" exposure to the chemicals.

He expressed hope that the work will begin within a couple of months.

The agency will host a public information session from 4-7 p.m. on Thursday, June 19 at Borough Hall.